



NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

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Representative Tom Lantos
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Lantos:

On behalf of the National Education Association's (NEA) 2.7 million members, we would like to express our support for the Youth Worker Protection Act.

NEA believes that young people should focus on education as their primary job and that excessive and unusual working hours are detrimental to students' attention span and academic achievement. Unfortunately, many minors are employed for as many as 15 hours during the school work, with some youth working more than 25 hours a week. In addition, too many very young children – some as young as age five – are employed as migrant and seasonal farmworkers. Such work clearly interferes with and undermines the educational process.

By strengthening the Fair Labor Standards Act's child labor provisions, the Youth Worker Protection Act will ensure that minors can enjoy the benefits of workforce experience, while maintaining their focus on education. We thank you for your leadership on this important issue and look forward to working with you to protect our nation's children.

Sincerely,

Diane Shust
Director of Government Relations

Randall Moody
Manager of Federal Policy and Politics